RCH

LAT 40.54295 LON -121.60723

56.09

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION
Division of Forest Insect Research

FOREST INSECT CONDITIONS
LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY
SUMMER OF 1956

Introduction

A reconnaissance-type survey was conducted on the Manzanita Lake, Lost Creek, and Badger Flat Units of Lassen Volcanic National Park by B. E. Wickman, with the assistance of Park Forester Esli H. Lampi on July 18. This survey is made in connection with the maintenance control work normally done each spring in the Park. In addition, the Butte Lake Unit was inspected July 9, the Drakesbad area was visited with Lampi on August 28, and on September 17 a brief aerial survey was made of the Park. The purpose of these surveys was to appraise the effectiveness of maintenance control work which was carried on last winter and summer, and to estimate control needs for the coming winter.

Insect and Host Species

The predominant insect-susceptible host tree in the Park, toward which insect control is normally directed, is Jeffrey pine. The principal insect enemies of this tree are the Jeffrey pine beetle Dendroctonus jeffreyi Hopk. and the California flathead borer Melanophila californica Van D. In ponderosa pine, which also occurs in the Park, the western pine beetle, D. brevicomis, is an important pest.

Status and Scope of Infestation

Insect activity in the Park has been at a relatively low level during the last 2 years. This can be attributed mainly to the continued maintenance control work being carried on by the Park and to natural enemies of the Jeffrey pine beetle. Currently infested trees are scarce; on July 18, 6 Jeffrey pine, with heavy broods of Jeffrey pine beetle, were found on the Badger Flat Road. On September 17 a small group of currently faded Jeffrey pine was noticed from the air on Raker Peak Ridge. However, loss of small old Jeffrey pine in the lava beds adjacent to Manzanita Lake has increased. Several of these small trees examined contained California flathead borer galleries and larvae, and in addition most of the trees in that general area appear to have a heavy infection of a needle disease, probably Elytroderma. A pathologist has been asked to examine the area.

Discussion

The outlook for a minimum amount of insect damage in the Park next year is good. Continued maintenance control of the few trees noted will aid in keeping the infestation at its current low level. To be especially commended is Forester Lampi's practice of treating insect-infested trees as they appear during spring and summer months, thus getting the utmost in control by prompt and continuous action.

Summary

Forest insect conditions in Lassen Volcanic National Park were surveyed in July, August, and September, and the insects were found to be at a very low level of infestation. Natural factors and a very well planned, continuous maintenance control program are believed to be responsible for this condition.

Berkeley, California
October 29, 1956

Boyd E. Wickman
Entomologist